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## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR CONCRETE ACTION BY US DELEGATION ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS**

HUAIROU, CHINA -- As the United States' First Lady Hillary Clinton today addressed the non-governmental forum at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women (FWCW), Amnesty International asked that Ms Clinton's forceful words in China be followed up by concrete action.

"Yesterday, Ms Clinton said that all governments must take action to protect and promote internationally recognized human rights," the human rights organization said.

"Amnesty International wants the US delegation to set out exactly how they will make women's human rights a priority at this conference and, afterwards, how they will move beyond the rhetoric to ensure equality by the year 2000."

Mrs Clinton yesterday addressed the FWCW, making a call to action to the 187 countries assembled to send a clear message to the world that women's rights are human rights. She denounced as human rights violations the practice of female genital mutilation, forced abortions, the rape of women as a tactic in war and other examples of the killing or brutalization of women.

Amnesty International today appealed to United States delegation and other governments at the conference to commit themselves to:

- \* reaffirm and build on their previous commitments (such as the Vienna Declaration that resulted from the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights) to the universality and indivisibility of the human rights of women
- \* take action on state violence against women
- \* tackle human rights violations of women in armed conflicts
- \* fulfill their international obligations to end human rights violations occurring in the private sphere and in communities
- \* protect women activists

"Ms Clinton made a great speech yesterday with several good points about the human rights of women and set the tone for the government discussions. Now Amnesty International will watch to see how her delegation will advance those strong words," the organization said. ENDS\